The Choice of Books. The selection of books, like the choice of friends, is a serious and important matter. Not every collection of books is in any sense a library. Its value will depend not so much upon its cost, or the number of its volumes, but upon the character of the books which fill its shelves. Fifty or a hundred volumes of the world's masterpieces are more valuable for any real educational purpose than ten thousand of the haphazard productions of the press. Says John Ruskin: It is of the greatest importance to you, not only for art's sake, but for all kinds of sake, in these days of book deluge, to keep out of the salt swamps of literature, and live on a little rocky island of your own, with a spring and a lake in it, pure and good. I cannot, of course, suggest the choice of a library for you, for every several mind needs different books, but there are some books which we all need, and assuredly, if you read Homer, Plato Æschylus, Herodotus, Dante, Shakespeare and Spencer as much as you ought, you will not require wide enlargement of your shelves to right and 1 left of them for purposes of perpetual study. * * A common book will often give you much amusement, but it is only a noble book which will give you dear friends." Reading to be useful should be wisely directed. The hours spent upon trifles or wasted in useless musings would suffice to secure

to most men both refinement and wide

information.

"And again," remarks James Her bert Morse, "if I could recover the hours idly given to the newspaper, not for my own gratification, but solely for my neighbor at the breakfast table, l could compass a solid course of English and American history, get at the antecedents of political parties in the two countries, and give the reasons for the existence of Gladstone and Parnell, of Blaine and Edmunds, in modern politics—and there is undoubtedly a reason for them all. Two columns a day in the newspapers-which could easily have spared, for they were given mainly to murder-trials and the search for corpses, or to the romance of the reporter concerning the same have during the last ten years absorbed just about the time I might have spent in reading a very respectable course in history-one embracing say, Curtius and Grote for Geece, Mommsen, Merivale and Gibbon for Rome, Macaulay and Green for my roots in Saxondom, Bancroft, Hildreth, and Palfrey for the ancestral tree in America, together with a very notable excursion into Spain and Holland with Motley and Prescott—a course I consider very desirable, and one which should set up a man of middle age very fairly in historical knowledge. I am sure I could have saved this amount out of any ten years of my newspaper reading alone, without cutting off any portion of that really valuable contribution for which the daily paper is to be honored, and which would be needed to make me an intelligent man in the history of my own times."

Books such as these are not to be had for the asking. They will not be found among the cast-off remnants of private libraries or in second-hand bookstores. They must be purchased with cash, and selected by those whose life has been spent among books, and who know their value.

Real growth in wisdom will result from the choice of wise books. Collections of common, frivolous and doubtful volumes will leave no useful impress upon the community. They will prove "monuments of folly" as truly as ugly buildings which are unsuited to their purpose. Valuable libraries are not the result of the expenditure of money merely, but of an educated taste applied to the selection of their individual volumes. Their collection involves time, labor and good judgment, and may not under any circumstances be left to haphazard, or the interested zeal of over-anxious dealers.

Some of our Democratic friends seem to think that we object to the appointment of a Democrat in the place of a Republican postmaster, whose term has expired. Nothing of the sort. What we do object to is the sneaking way in which the Cleveland element of the Democratic party swindled a great many Republicans into voting the Democratic ticket in 1884 by advertising that the principle of the new administration would be that no party considerations should enter into the matter of appointments; and that an efficient public officer, though a Republican, would be just as sure of his continuance in office as he would if he were a Democrat. We We absolve our luminous contemporary, the New York Sun, from aiding and abetting any such hypocritical and pusillanimous professions. And by the way, we may remark in this connection, that we are not half as sure as we once were that the Sun's

idea of the civil service is altogether wrong. At any rate we admire honesty wherever it is found.

True to its character of chief ally of the rum power, the prohibition party opposes with all its might and main the high license bill in the New York Legislature. One would think, that the mere fact, of finding themselves so continuously working hand in hand with agents of the saloon, would excite the suspicions of the Prohibitionists, and lead them to ask, whether it is possible that the interests of temperance and intemperance can both be served the same means. It is a sin galar thing, that the most active measures against intemperance, are being carried forward by the people in those states where there is no prohibition party, and that in those states where there is a prohibition party, as in New York and New Jersey, it is almost invariably found arrayed against every practicable scheme for the restriction and suppression of the rum evil.

It is high time therefore, that throwing aside all sentimental feelings, prompted by the real or apparent sincerity of some individual prohibitionists, all temperance people should wage vigorous warfare against the prohibition party, as one of the chief obstacles in the pathway of reform.

Dr. Howard Crosby, who has done more work in proportion to his talk, in combatting the terrible influence of the saloon, than all the prohibitionists put together, announced to the Rutgers students, that in his opinion the the total abstinence pledge had been tried and found wanting, as the means of preventing drunkenness. There are thousands of thousands of temperance people who most thoroughly agree with him. That total abstinence-touch not taste not handle not principle, is in many individual cases the sole road for safety is not to be denied. This is true not only with regard to wine drinking, but also with regard to many another practice very common to the human family. There are a great many unfortunate creatures, with whom little invariably leads to too much. The weak, the timid and the ignorant must if they would be safe keep in the hard beaten, welldefined, albeit dusty and monotonous highway; but no law will ever pass which shall prohibit the strong and confident ones from wandering at will through field and wood.

Cast-iron rules of conduct, to which all individuals, without regard to character or circumstances must conform are repugnant alike to Christianity and the American idea of civil liberty,

STATE ITEMS.

A sharp fellow imposed on several Paterson brewers by ordering goods sent to a fictitious place and then getting free drinks on the strength of the orders.

John Beekman, an old resident of North Branch, was frozen to death in a field not more than a mile from his house last week. His body was found after a search. The boring of the artesian well at Beach Haven has resulted in striking a most superior artery of water at 475 feet. The flow is 500 barrels an hour. Much excite-

Mrs. H. W. Cottrell, of Long Branch, the mother of several half-grown boys, has published the following notice in the local newspapers: Warning .- All parties are hereby for-

bidden under penalty of law, to sell or give beer or any intoxicating liquors to MRS. H. W. COTTRELL.

Rev. J. H. Whitehead, of Passaic. last veek secured a horse which was stolen from him while he was pastor of the Pompton Plains ReformedChurch six years ago. Mr. Whitehead found the horse at a farmer's at Marlborough, N. Y., who purchased it from a sale stable at Newburgh, and being able to prove property, he secured the animal. . A fellow named George Messenger was convicted of the theft, and was sent to Trenton for nine years. Mr. Whitehead visited Messenger in State Prison in company with Mr H. R. Richardson, a short time since, and learned enough to warrant him in going in search of his property. The animal is old and worn now, but Mr. Whitehead proposes to use him well for the balance of his life.



This powder never varies. A marvel of purity, strength and wholesomeness. More economical than the ordinary kinds, and cannot be sold in competition with the multitude of I w test, short weight alum or phosphate powders. Sold only in cans. Royal Baking Powder Co., 106 Wall St., N. Y.

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the Flywheel of Society. Dr. Carpenter, from whose "Mental

Physiology" we have quoted, has so consequences, that his book almost dethese consequences ourselves:

nervous structure. Riderless cavalry horses, at many a most of us, by the age of 50, the charbattle, have been seen to come together acter has set like plaster, and will never and go through their customary evolu- soften again.-William James in Poputions at the sound of the bugle call. lar Science Monthly. Most trained domestic animals, dogs and oxen and omnibus and car horses, seem to be machines almost pure and simple,

without difficulty secured. agent. It alone is what keeps us all like-that is to say whether there is busiwithin the bounds of ordinance, and ness or not, it is desirable to make a show saves the children of fo

The Daily Drill and Its Effects-Habit envious uprisings of the poor. It alone prevents the hardest and most repulsive walks of life from being deserted by those brought up to tread therein. I prominently enforced the principle that keeps the fisherman and the deck hand our organs grow to the way in which they at sea, through the winter; it holds the have been exercised, and dwelt upon its miner in his darkness, and nails the countryman to his log cabin and his serves to be called a work of edification lonely farm through all the months of on this account alone. We need make snow; it protects us from invasion by no apology, then, for tracing a few of the natives of the desert and the frozen zone. It dooms us all to fight out the "Habit a second nature! Habit is ten | battle of life upon the lines of our nurttimes nature," the Duke of Wellington | ure or our early choice, and to make the is said to have exclaimed; and the degree | best of a pursuit that disagrees, because to which this is true no one can probably there is no other for which we are fitted, appreciate as well as one who in is a vet- and it is too late to begin again. It eran soldier himself. The daily drill and keeps different social strata from mixing, the years of discipline end by fashioning | Already at the age of 25 you see the proa man completely over again, as to most | fessional mannerism settling down on the of the possibilities of his conduct. "There young commercial traveler, on the young is a story, which is credible enough, doctor, on the young minister, on the though it may not be true, of a practical young counselor at law. You see the joker, who, seeing a discharged veteran little lines of cleavage running through carrying home his dinner, suddenly called the character; the tricks of thought. the out, "Attention!" whereupon the man prejudices, the ways of the "shop" in a instantly brought his hands down, and word, from which the man can by and lost his mutton and potatoes in the gutter.
The drill had been thorough, and its

offects had become embodied in the man's

On the whole, it is best he should not escape. It is well for the world that in

Forms of the Bank Bill. The American bank bill has followed undoubtingly, unhesitatingly doing from | the form of the American letter envelope. minute to minute the duties they have For paper money, if paper money must been taught, and giving no sign that the be used, it is the most convenient possipossibility of an alternative even suggests ble. But there is a prejudice against itself to their mind. Men grown old in that form in Europe. The notes of the prison have asked to be readmitted after Bank of England and the Bank of France being once set free. In a railroad acci- are scarcely less in size than an old fashdent to a traveling managerie in the lioned blanket newspaper sheet. A draft United States some time in 1884, a tiger, given by an English or French bank is whose cage had been broken open, is said still larger. Your tailor in Paris gives to have emerged, but presently crept you a receipt that, after several times back again, as if too much bewildered by folding, you manage to cram it into your his new responsibilities, so that he was pocketbook. A queer idea of business attaches to these huge pieces of paper. Habit is thus the enormous flywheel of | They will tell you that small drafts, bank society, its most precious conservative bills and receipts do not look business

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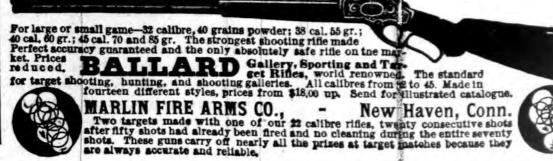
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